

Application No. 09/654,987  
Page 2

Amendment

wavelength by at least one of the polymeric material at the second bond site location and the polymeric catheter tube;

controllably directing the first annular beam of electromagnetic energy by redirecting the first beam with a parabolic mirror onto the polymeric material to concentrate the energy in the first bond site location so as to at least partially melt at least one material selected from the group consisting of the polymeric material and the polymeric catheter tube along the first bond site location and immediate regions thereof;

and controllably directing the second annular beam of electromagnetic energy by redirecting the second beam with a parabolic mirror onto the polymeric material to concentrate the energy in the second bond site location so as to at least partially melt at least one material selected from the group consisting of the polymeric material and the polymeric catheter tube along the second bond site location and the immediate region thereof; and

allowing the at least two partially melted materials to cool and solidify to form a fusion bond between the polymeric catheter tube and the polymeric material.

Rule 1126  
Please add new claims 31-33 as follows:

31. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein each annular beam is generated and directed through the use of at least one lens.
32. (New) The process of claim 31 wherein each annular beam is generated and directed through the use of two or more lenses.
33. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein a portion of the annular beam is blocked.

Please cancel claims 14-15, 24, and 27-29 without prejudice or disclaimer.

#### REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Advisory Action dated January 3, 2003 and in furtherance of a telephone communication with the Examiner on January 31, 2003. In the phone communication, it was asserted by the Examiner that the claims would be allowable if the